GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1309
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2004
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the Human Development Report 2004 , the country ranks 171st out of the 175 countries in public spending on health ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being contemplated by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) Although no ranking of countries is given for public spending on health in the Human Development Report, 2004, based on data given in the Report, it is seen that India ranks 171 out of 175 countries in terms of public spending on health. According to this Report, the total health expenditure as a percentage of GDP in India is 5.1 %, of which 0.9% of GDP is the share of public health expenditure in the year 2001.

(b) & (c) Health is a State subject. However, the Central Government has been making every effort to ensure its contribution to the public health expenditure. The resources for public investment in health sector are also being augmented by securing assistance from various bilateral and multi lateral agencies for implementation of various disease control programmes.

The total health expenditure as a percentage of GDP in India is 5.1% of which 0.9 % of GDP is the share of public health expenditure in the year 2001. The National Common Minimum Programme envisages increasing public spending on health to at least 2-3% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) over the next 5 years. The National Health Policy-2002 also envisages increasing public health investment to 2% of GDP by 2010. To achieve this, the Health Policy stipulates increasing the expenditure o n health b y State Governments to 7% of their budget by 2005 and to 8% of their budget by 2010. The Policy further envisages to raise the Central Government`s contribution from 15% as at present to 25% by 2010.